

# Cuba & its People

Havana

# **Inspiring Moments**

- ► Uncover Cuba's heart and soul alongside its charismatic people.
- ► Learn about the lives and experiences of Cubans during meaningful **encounters and conversations.**
- ► Talk with **small business owners** and local artists, learning about the path toward entrepreneurship in Cuba.
- Interact with Cuba's varied arts community during visits with artists, dancers, craftsmen and musicians.
- ▶ Ride in an independently owned 1950s convertible along Havana's Malecón.
- ► Travel beyond Havana to **visit a rural community** and learn about farming and local life from residents.
- ► Enjoy a journey to **Matanzas** for insight into the island's remarkable Afro-Cuban culture.
- ► Experience Old Havana and its Fortification System, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

This exclusive program, developed by AHI Travel, is operated in accordance with a People-to-People general license established by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control pursuant to 31 CFR section 515.565. Our itinerary is designed to promote meaningful People-to-People contact and cultural exchange as well as foster educational dialogue with local Cuban residents, artists, musicians, writers and entrepreneurs.



Casa Fuster

Immerse yourself in incredible Cuba! This carefully curated program delivers meaningful interactions between our guests and Cuban locals while benefiting civil society. From our base in timeless Havana, enjoy rich experiences that will deepen your appreciation for Cuba and its culture. Visit the beautiful countryside and Matanzas, explore Old Havana and Fusterlandia, and connect with this extraordinary country as well as its people. This exclusive program, developed by AHI Travel, is operated in accordance with a Peopleto-People general license established by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

# **Day-by-Day Itinerary**

# Day 1 | Miami, Florida | Havana, Cuba

Depart Miami for Havana. Upon arrival, check in to the Paseo 206, located in the heart of El Vedado.

Tonight, gather for a Welcome Dinner at a local *paladar*, a privately owned and operated restaurant. Meet and mingle with locals on your first night in Cuba while supporting Cuban entrepreneurialism.

## Day 2 | Havana

**Enrichment:** *Urban Planning and the Architectural Challenges in Havana.* 

Enigmatic Old Havana. Enjoy your first look at this UNESCO World Heritage destination and its four main squares: Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco, Plaza de la Catedral and Plaza Vieja. Each vibrant plaza teems with men playing dominos and flea markets hawking leather goods, paintings and more. Chat with habaneros, local vendors, before continuing to Dador, an independently owned clothing store founded by Cuban women. We'll learn about their experiences with starting and owning a female-led business in Cuba.

#### Enrichment: The Cuban Economy.

# Day 3 | Havana

Havana by Car. Begin today with a class Cuban experience! Climb aboard an iconic convertible for a ride through Havana's colorful historic quarter. Chat with your friendly driver and take a peek beneath the hood to learn how the cars are maintained.

**Contemporary Art.** Join an expert to tour the National Museum of Fine Arts. Alongside Wilfredo Benitez of the Ludwig Foundation, explore collections featuring Cuban artists from the 17th century until today.

Enrichment: Cuba's Justice System.

# Day 4 | Havana

Enrichment: Empowering Cuban Women.

Jewish Center & Cuban Dance. Start at the Sephardic



Hebrew Center where a member of Havana's Jewish Community offers a tour. Continue to Malpaso, a local dance studio, for a look into Cuba's infectious dance scene. Meet the talented dancers and learn about their experiences and commitments to their training. Sit down to lunch at a *paladar*.

La Finca Vigia. Venture out to see the home of Ernest Hemingway. The author bought the property in 1940 and lived there for 20 years with his wife.

Later, visit the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba, a nonprofit art and cultural institution dedicated to protecting and promoting Cuban artists. Meet local artists and learn about their artistic pursuits.

Finish off the day over dinner at the Hotel Nacional.

## Day 5 | Matanzas | Havana

Matanzas – The Slaves' Route. Delve into the cultural riches of Matanzas, "the city of bridges." Cuba underwent a long period of slavery from 1511 until 1886. Today, Afro-Cuban roots remain profound across the island, especially in Matanzas. Tour the San Severino Museum, a castle built by slave labor to protect the city and bay against attacks. View objects and photos illustrating slavery times and learn about the history of the slave trade, Plus, gain insight into how Afro-Cuban culture is celebrated throughout Cuba in art, religion, music, language and other forms of expression. Also visit the Sugar Mill Triunvirato, the site of the 1843 Rebellion of the Triunvirato, followed by a performance by a local choir.

## Enrichment: Race and the Cuban Revolution.

## Day 6 | Havana

**Norma Guillard.** Join this Cuban social psychologist and adjunct lecturer at the University of Havana as she shares stories about her work. Watch "Maestra," a documentary about female volunteers who taught more than 700,000 Cubans to read and write during the Cuban Literacy Campaign.

Markets, Street Scenes & Local Art. Today's discovery begins at an agromercado, a street market selling vegetables, fruits and meats. This is a great way to witness the hum of daily life. Next, head to the lively



Callejón de Hamel. This paint-splashed, music-filled alley is a central part of Afro-Cuban culture. Continue to the popular Casa Fuster, a local art studio, and talk with an artist about his work. Enjoy lunch at Casa Fuster.

Casa de la Cultura & Afro-Cuban Dance. Interact with staff and children at this community center, which promotes art, culture and literature within Cuba. Continue for a dance session with local dancers and listen as they share their passions for teaching tango and salsa. You can try a few steps, too!

# Day 7 | Cuban Countryside | Havana

Rural Cuba. Travel beyond Havana to the island's fertile countryside. Here, the identity is firmly planted in agriculture. Take in views of untamed beauty, passing tobacco and sugarcane fields, valleys and villages. Visit a small community and meet with farmers to learn about their everyday lives in rural Cuba. Today's lunch features locally sourced produce.

#### Enrichment: Rhythms of Cuban Music.

Gather for a Farewell Dinner at a *paladar* and raise a toast to your adventure!

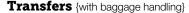
# Day 8 | Havana | Miami, Florida

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to Miami, Florida.

# **Included Features**

## **Accommodations** {with baggage handling}

-7 nights in Havana, Cuba, at the first-class Paseo 206, a privately owned boutique hotel.



 Round-trip flights between Miami and Cuba and all deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program.



## **Extensive Meal Program**

-7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus a local beverage with dinner.

# Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- -Small group: Sized just right at 12 guests.
- AHI Travel Assurance plan covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- -Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Cuban visa.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



# 2024 Departures & Pricing

# February 16-23, 2024

Full Standard Price \$5,945
Special Savings \$250

# Special Standard Price \$5,695\*

\*Special price available for a limited time. Call for details.

The Junior Suite category is an additional \$200, the Deluxe Suite category is an additional \$700.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and include round trip air service from Miami to Cuba.

Single accommodations are not available on this program.

Program-specific terms and conditions are available at https://orst.ahitravel.com/destinations/1824A?schoolld=129. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.

**Note:** Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Walking is required on many excursions.